

SPOKANEWORD

July
2021



Spokane Friends

1612 W Dalke

Spokane, WA 99205

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Sunday Schedule
during
Covid-19 Restrictions

Morning Worship

10:00 am

At Meeting House

And Via Zoom

See Website For Link

Reflections on Cicadas

by Lois Kieffaber

While visiting my family in Indiana and Ohio several weeks ago, I was delighted to witness some members of the 17-year cicadas known as Brood X — the “X” is the Roman numeral for 10. Brood X is the largest group of 17-year cicadas, and they matured and made their presence known this summer. My timing was very lucky, as the infestation of cicadas lasts only about four to six weeks. So it was a special treat to see and hear them.



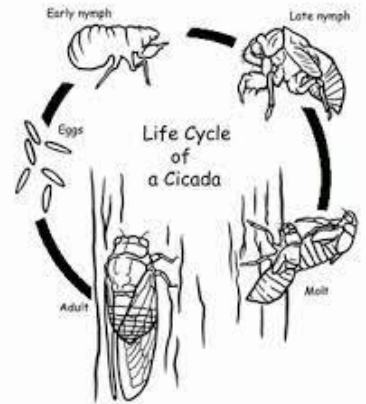
Range of Brood-X cicadas



Not only was the timing of my visit fortuitous, since the mature above-ground lifetime is so short, but the brood is confined to certain locations in North America, and the Pacific Northwest is not included, so we will never see them or hear them here in Washington state. Periodic cicadas only occur in the eastern United States occur only; they don't occur anywhere else in the world.*

We walked in the woods on my sister and brother-in-law's forested land and saw cicadas grouped on many small and tall trees and on the ground. They were not as big as I remembered them from finding their empty shells in our backyard as a child. But, as I was reminded, I was a smaller person then, so they looked bigger to me than they do now. We held several and took pictures. On the pathway we saw many many holes with built-up chimney-like edges poking out of the soil. These are made by the cicada nymphs (larval stage) which must burrow upward from underground where they have been developing for the vast portion of their life.

Cicadas make a loud buzzing drone and when many are present and join in, the sound level can become very loud, up to 90 decibels. The noise is actually a mating song emitted by the males, flexing a drumlike organ called a tymbal, to attract females to mate with. After mating, female cicadas excavate furrows in slender tree branches and deposit their eggs. In six to ten weeks, the eggs hatch and the new nymphs drop from the trees, burrow underground, locate a suitable rootlet for feeding, and begin their long 17-year development.



When cicadas come out, they're eaten by just about anything that likes insects. But they emerge in the millions, so even when a ton of them are eaten, there are still plenty more ready to mate and lay eggs.**

If handled, both males and females struggle to fly, and males make a loud defensive buzzing sound that may startle but is otherwise harmless. Cicadas are not poisonous or known to transmit disease. They are not the locusts which destroy entire crops when they swarm. In general, cicadas are beneficial. They prune mature trees, aerate the soil, and make it easier for water to penetrate.* And when they die, their bodies provide nitrogen for growing trees.

The great numbers of cicadas during this event can be a nuisance to farmers, but the insects aren't harmful to humans or animals. People that have sampled cicadas often say they taste similar to canned asparagus.**

*cnn.com/2021/05/23/world/cicadas-2021-emergence-scn/index.html

**nwf.org/Educational-Resources/Wildlife-Guide/Invertebrates/Periodical-Cicadas

The following cartoon was printed on the penultimate page of the *New York Times Book Review*, June 18, 2021. But it can be viewed in a much larger, colorful version at the following website:

<https://www.nytimes.com/2021/06/18/books/the-literary-life-of-cicadas.html>

The arrival of our buzzing summer friends also brings buggy bookish allusions.



What are You Worth?

by John S. Breidenstine

God bless the lowly cicada, sometimes known as a 17-year locust.

These are insects that entertain/irritate us with a sustained shrill and high-pitched sound sometime during the summer months. At least one species of these creatures will come to life this summer, in certain areas of the country, after being dormant for 17 years. They will live for a few weeks, mate, and then die.

One radio commentator questioned what possible worth such a creature could have, other than as a food source every 17 years for something else. A listener called back with an answer. "The cicada," he said, "lays its eggs high on the branches of an oak tree. Something of what is deposited on these branches eats away at them and they fall to the ground. The eggs then become dormant in the ground for the next 17 years. And, it just so happens," he added, "that these oak trees need to be pruned every 17 years."

Cicadas — pruners of trees? Who would have guessed? It says something to me about the harmony of God's creation, how even a cicada has a special place in the scheme of God's creative work.

Have you ever wondered about your worth, your purpose, your reason for being? Stop wondering and start paying attention to the lives you touch every day: your spouse, your children, your parents, your customers, your patients, your nurses, your roommate, your classmates, your friends, your colleagues, your students, your neighbors, etc., etc. Your attitude, the words you say and the way you say them, the thanks you express or repress, the compliments you

give or the complaints you make, the smiles or frowns on your face, the prayers you say — all these have an impact for good or ill. As children of a good and gracious God, would it not be well for us to intentionally pass on some of God's loving grace to the people whose lives we touch, today and tomorrow? After all, what better purpose is there?

Jesus, we are creatures of God's creation, whom God declared "very good." Help us to affirm our worth, discover our purpose and faithfully live it out. Amen

John Breidenstine, of Londonderry Village in Palmuyra, PA, is a retired Church of the Brethren pastor. **Copyright Messenger magazine, all rights reserved, used by permission, link to <http://www.brethren.org/messenger/>**

"the female cicada lays her eggs right at the end of the branches," said Gene Kritsky, dean of behavioral and natural sciences at Mount St. Joseph University in Ohio.

"She does that using an ovipositor, which actually saws into the branch. It's actually sort of a natural pruning. Trees with those branch breaks will actually produce more flowers the following year." In the 1890s, Kritsky said, a paper studying the effect of cicadas on cherry trees was published titled, "Out of Evil Cometh Good." "They discovered that the year after a cicada emergence, cherry trees did better."

From "Periodical Cicadas Perform 'Natural Pruning' on Trees Across Western Pennsylvania," Trib Total Media, Tantarum, Pa., a 2019 article about Brood VIII, the generations of cicadas that emerged in spring 2019 and will return next in 2036. This year's cicadas are Brood X, or "the Great Eastern Brood," the most widespread and largest generation of the insects.



MONTHLY MEETING FOR BUSINESS MINUTES
16 May 2021



The meeting was opened by Presiding Clerk, Jonas Cox. 15 people were in attendance.

The May minutes were read and approved with 2 corrections. Our new secretary's name is Lauren Dilley, not Tilley. The Women's Missionary Fellowship (WMF) account will be transferred to the general fund.

Nominating Committee Report: A new slate of clerks and members to committees were presented for the year 2021 was presented. This will be presented again at the July meeting for possible approval.

Treasurer's Report: Jon Maroni is working on cleaning up accounts on the books. He has had a conversation with Dave Hampton with the Friends Foundation. One of our CD's is maturing and we may have some options to consider. We received money from Caritas for \$3000 and may ask them for another \$750 to complete the foyer and hallway.

Elder's Report: Lauren Dilley is doing well but Lois and Pam may work with her a little more. The messages for the month of July have been filled except for the 25th. There is some confusion about which church pillar the "See the Need" fund needs to be under.

Stewards & Trustees Report: We are still working on the carpet for the foyer and hallway. The baseboards were removed because of the painting. We have several quotes for the front, back stairs and 2 classrooms. The front has been approved. The foyer and hallways will be done with carpet squares. Funds from donations for the downstairs bathrooms is about \$5000. We will be asking Caritas for another \$750 to complete the foyer and hallway.

Reports from our "three pillars:

Sharing the Light – Laverne Biel

Living the Quaker Way by Phillip Gulley will be reviewed and then possibly be used in a book study.

Congregational Care – Kent Biel

We will be working on personal relationships by writing personal notes to people attending our meeting

Serving the Community – Jon Maroni

"See the Need" was added to our pillar as well as the Gideons and the Fig Tree

New Business: It was approved that we move our Sunday meetings to the Fellowship Hall for the rest of the summer. It was approved that the donated audio speakers be mounted in the Sanctuary to replace the old ones.

With no other old or new business and all hearts and minds clear Laverne Biel dismissed in prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Nixon, Recording Clerk



This Tender Land
by William Kent Krueger

Sue's Corner

This is a great story! It's been compared to Huckleberry Finn and The Grapes of Wrath.

Odie and his brother Albert have been sent to the Lincoln Indian Training School, the only white faces living there. The school is as bad as you'd imagine.

Odie's pranks continually put him in the solitary confinement room for days at a time, where he makes friends with the resident rat that he names Faria. A crime is committed, which would be blamed on the brothers. They decide to run away, along with a mute India named Mose and Emmy, who's recently been orphaned.

Thus starts their trip down the Mississippi to St. Louis, where their aunt lives. They hope.

Along the way, they meet "the good, the bad and the ugly" including a tent revivalist faith healer. They all do a lot of growing up along the way. Odie comes to terms with his perception of God as a tornado.

The story is told by Odie as an old man. He leaves us with this: "In every good tale there is a seed of truth, and from that seed a story grows. Some of what I've told you is true and some....well, let's just call it the bloom on the rose."

LOOK UP FOR WONDERS

...transposing reality in the modern age

by A. Friend

When it comes down to it, humans struggle to sustain life, faced with pandemic scars extending to criminal acts that register in the brain, generate degrees of anxiety from one-to-ten!

To avoid this imposing stress, we watch where we walk, what we say, how we say it, and to whom. Some of us mere mortals seeking solace find acceptable buffers to take the edge-off unwelcomed observed concerns, hoping to exchange detrimental doubt for optimistic hope.

Nineteenth Century poet Emily Dickenson offers: "...hope is metaphorically transformed into a strong-willed bird that lives within the human soul—and sings its song no matter what." She proposes how vital a feeling hope is to embrace, to cushion contemporary concerns.

From primitive times ancestors have chosen to look up to explore the mysteries of the universe, presumably sightseeing in space for meaning to validate the *wonder* of our creation, feet planted firmly on mother earth.

However, the mind -- that enigmatic structure -- keeps us dancing on the edge of reality, as a journey onto itself, a sojourn given to the limits of thought, shaped by experience.

Some may look-in to battle bug-a-boos of discontent, or look-out to speculate what's coming next, or peek into an unexplored universe surrounding us; to seek an understanding of what it truly means to spin on our earth in a cosmos we barely understand, no matter how advanced the telescope, science and federal budgets for collecting rocks from the outer space.

Space scholars Carl Sagan and Frank Drake offer: "Human history has entered the realm of experimental science... life arose here on the earth, and we know that similar processes must be fairly common throughout the universe"

We seem to look-up seeking dreams in passing clouds and to embrace answers from the expanding universe, with eyes that meander from star-to-star, from earth wounded by harmful ozone, debilitating drugs, hostile bigots, thought police and goods spewed from industries that avoid social responsibility.

Looking up may have lost some of its magic in the hunt for cultivated expectations in the vastness of space. Nevertheless, be warned if outer-space critters are anything like us, perhaps we'll end up zapping each other --present earthly brawls suggest the possibility.

Hope aside, we are a polarized nation — climate change a threat, and social issues a self-indulged tragedy. Consider productive compassion as we try to relate to each other, but ponder how to embrace reptilian visitors from outer space with a comprehensive vision that rejects our earthy foibles, given to present asocial divisions defined by borders and the polluted atmosphere we breath.

As for present reality: an epidemiologist at Mount Sinai Medical Center in New York, Shanna Swan, warned falling sperm counts potentially threaten the future of the human race. "It's a global existential crisis," as detailed in her book *Count Down*.

At this juncture interaction considering earthly reproduction, techniques, creating life on earth, it's more beneficial to look in not up.

What do you think?

E-MAIL ME at: A. Friend: spokanefriends@gmail.com

Next Month: Homeless Support

<u>Financial Report</u>		
<u>June 2021</u>		<u>Year to Date</u>
Giving:	\$ 9641.37	Giving: \$ 25,508.06
Expenses:	\$ 3636.54	Expenses: \$ 20,410.11
Difference:	+\$ 6004.83	Difference: +\$ 5097.95

Views expressed by writers in this Newsletter do not necessarily represent views of the Editor or of the Meeting. We desire an "open forum" for dialog and exchange of ideas.

Spokane police statistics

I thought I would send you this link <https://fb.watch/65FB8evvhL/> that addresses the statistics that were printed in the June issue of our Church Newsletter. I believe it is important to reflect information correctly when reporting items in our newsletter. Slanted biases in either direction misinform the readers. L.V.

A. Friend responds: This can happen for many reasons: the population sample size, the method of collecting data, or the time period over which it was collected may differ between studies, all of which may be influenced by the bias of the organization presenting them. It is always good to “check the source,” when these questions arise, For this reason, I always try to cite the sources I use; in this case the footnoted source cited was www.areavibes.com/spokane-wa/crime. The point I wished to make was that our city is on the verge of a growth spurt, accompanied by problems which we are not prepared to address, either to help solve or to take advantage of. Though statistical details may differ, I believe that point would remain well supported.

Editor’s Note: Readers interested in this discussion might enjoy the book *How to Lie with Statistics* by Darrell Huff, first published in 1954, and now in its 37th printing. Written for the general reader, it is also much loved by scientists. It is available for loan on request to the Meeting Office. P.S. We are always delighted when someone actually writes to us — thank you!

* ALSO IN THE MAIL . . *
* A note from Becky Williams: *
* *Thank you for the emails and newsletters. It is al-* *
* *ways great to hear from the Friends family that* *
* *way. I know how to pray for the Meeting better.* *
* *Just got back from Los Angeles. Before that I spent* *
* *3 wonderful weeks in Hawaii with Marci and fami-* *
* *ly and Sarita. So good to visit with all of them.* *
* *My Uncle died, so in LA we went to the funeral.* *
* *Mom was there already. He was her brother, 95* *
* *years old. Then Sarita and I drove back with Mom* *
* *to Anderson. Sarita will be here for 2 months!!* *
* *Tuesday Jonathan and Carol and family and Marci* *
* *and her two youngest are coming for a visit. It will* *
* *be exciting to have them here. Weatherwise it is to* *
* *be in triple digits! So we’ll probably head to the* *
* *lake.* *
* *Please give my greetings to all. Love and prayers,* *
* *Becky* *
* *P.S. Fin to see Matt on TV :)* *

Quaker News

- ⇒ **North Valley Friends Church** is searching for someone to fill a pastoral position with our children and families. If you know of anyone that would be a good fit and who feels called to a position like this, please let them know! Contact Leslie Murray at Leslie@northvalleyfriends.org or 503-260-7615. Download the job description and application in the second paragraph of northvalleyfriends.org
- ⇒ Northwest Yearly Meeting’s **Annual Sessions** will take place July 19-21 via Zoom. The theme is Moving Forward: Church Revitalization in a Post-Covid World with guest speaker Dr. Thom Ranier. Visit nwfriends.org for the complete schedule.
- ⇒ Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL) invites you to read this statement against anti-Asian violence at <https://www.fcnl.org/updates/2021-03/stop-violence-against-asian-americans>.
- ⇒ We look forward to a wonderful time together next year, in 2022, at the **Pacific Northwest Quaker Women’s Theology Conference**. July 6-10, 2022, at Cascades Camp in Yelm, Washington. Visit <https://www.pnwquakerwomen.org/conference/> for more information.
- ⇒ **Quakers Uprooting Racism** is a coalition of four Quaker organizations (AFSC, Friends Council on Education, FGC, and Pendle Hill) which are working together to accelerate the movement for and capacity to create racial justice among (and beyond) Friends through the creation of a community practice of racial justice changemakers learning and experimenting with actions together. Go to <https://www.scymfriends.org/newsletter> June 26

Reminders


Caritas does not live here anymore. Please take donations to their new location — see sign on our front door.

Our next book discussion group will be reading Living Like a Quaker by Phillip Gulley. You might want to think about acquiring your own copy of the book.

July 2021



Spokanefriends@gmail.com
 Spokane Friends Meeting
 www.spokanefriends.com

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat#
Birthdays and Anniversaries				1 TOPS 5 pm	2 Don and Lorna Hyslop	3 Jon and Krista Maroni
4 10:00 Worship in Meeting House AND via Zoom — see website for link	5  ↓	6 Gideon Meal 6 pm	7	8 TOPS 5 pm	9	10
11 10:00 Worship in Meeting House AND via Zoom — see website for link	12	13	14 Elders Meeting 6 pm	15 TOPS 5 pm	16	17
18 10:00 Worship in Meeting House AND via Zoom — see website for link 11:15 Monthly Busi- ness Meeting Mary Wiexe	19	20	21	22 TOPS 5 pm Bruce Williams	23	24
25 10:00 Worship in Meeting House; AND via Zoom— see website for link	26	27	28	29	30	31 LaVerne Biel Gillian Moore



Spokane Friends Meeting
1612 W. Dalke Avenue
Spokane, WA 99205

Holding in the Light . . . During Meeting for Worship, many share joys about changes in their lives, new opportunities, new ministries, unexpected blessings; others share concerns. You may wish to carry these joys and concerns in your heart and remember them in your prayers.

- Greetings from Nick and Susan, brought by Pam and Bill who visited them recently.
- Krista's new job (Director of Resident Life at Whitworth) and the challenges and responsibilities that come along with it.
- Recent successful surgeries and recovery from them.
- Our Quaker community, wanting to live out our new central purpose statement that we hope will unite us and guide us well in coming years.
- Safe return to Spokane after harrowing road trips.
- The Mark Hurd family grieving the death of Chris.
- Trying to help failing grandparents toward a peaceful death.
- Dear friends in Malden, and the entire burned-out town which has not received much-needed Federal help in a timely manner.
- Those incarcerated who want to change the direction of their lives when released.
- The families of victims in the recent apartment building collapse in Florida; also the first responders to that tragedy.



"Darkness cannot drive out darkness: only light can do that.

Hate cannot overcome hate; only love can do that."

— Martin Luther King, Jr.